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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 21, 2004 Signature: _____
(Matthias Abrell)

Attorney Docket No.: 30552/38910
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
J. Patrick Droppleman

Application No.: 10/685,255

Filed: October 14, 2003 Art Unit: 3679

For: MECHANICAL CONNECTOR Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the U.S. filing date (37 CFR 1.97(b)(1)).

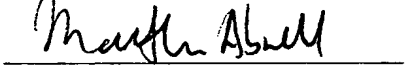
Per the waiving of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of each of the references on the PTO/SB/08 are not attached.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Applicant believes that no fee is due at this time. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 30552/38910. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: January 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/685,255
Filing Date	October 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	J. Patrick Droppleman
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	30552/38910

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number-Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		692,795	02-04-1902	Moyle
		1,130,726	03-09-1915	Greve
		1,253,065	01-08-1918	Looze
		1,542,703	06-16-1925	Kirkham
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		6,267,418-B1	07-31-2001	Hogue et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3]-Number[4]-Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T[6]

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. [1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	